



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-ES-2022-0140; FXES11130900000/223/FF09E32000;

OMB Control Number 1018-0095]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, Experimental Populations

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing to renew an existing information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by one of the following methods (please reference 1018-0095 in the subject line of your comments):

- Internet (preferred): <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-ES-2022-0140.
- Email: [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov).
- U.S. mail: Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection

Clearance Officer, by email at *Info\_Coll@fws.gov*, or by telephone at (703) 358-2503. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval under the PRA. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of

information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

*Abstract:* Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish experimental populations of endangered or threatened species. Because the ESA protects individuals of experimental populations, the information we collect is important for monitoring the success of reintroduction and recovery efforts. This is a nonform collection (meaning there is no designated form associated with this collection). Regulations at 50 CFR 17.84 contain information collection requirements for experimental populations of vertebrate endangered and threatened species. These regulations identify and describe the three categories of information we collect, which include:

- (1) *General take or removal.* “Take” is defined by the ESA as “[to] harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” In this information collection,

take most commonly is considered to be in the form of human-related mortality, including:

- a. Unintentional taking incidental to otherwise lawful activities (e.g., highway mortalities);
- b. Animal husbandry actions authorized to manage the population (e.g., translocation or providing aid to sick, injured, or orphaned individuals);
- c. Take in defense of human life;
- d. Take related to defense of property (if authorized); or
- e. Take in the form of authorized harassment.

(2) *Depredation-related take*. Involves take for management purposes of documented livestock depredation, and may include authorized harassment or authorized lethal take of experimental population animals in the act of attacking livestock. See 50 CFR 17.84 for specific provisions of harassment for each species within this section.

The information that we collect includes:

- a. Name, address, and phone number of reporting party,
- b. Species involved,
- c. Type of incident,
- d. Quantity of take,
- e. Location and time of the reported incident, and
- f. Description of the circumstances related to the incident.

(3) *Specimen collection, recovery, or reporting of dead individuals*. This information documents incidental or authorized scientific collection.

Most of the information collected addresses the reporting of sightings

of experimental population animals or the inadvertent discovery of an injured or dead individual.

Service recovery specialists use this information to determine the success of reintroductions in relation to established recovery plan goals for the experimental populations of vertebrate endangered and threatened species involved. In addition, this information helps us to assess the effectiveness of control activities in order to develop better means to reduce problems with livestock for those species where depredation is a problem.

*Title of Collection:* Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, Experimental Populations, 50 CFR 17.84.

*OMB Control Number:* 1018-0095.

*Form Numbers:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Individuals and households, private sector, and State/local/Tribal governments.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:* None.

Requirement	Annual Number of Respondents	Total Annual Responses	Completion Time per Response	Total Annual Burden Hours*
<b>Notification - General Take or Removal</b>				
Individuals	12	12	.5	6
Private Sector	7	7	.5	4
Government	29	29	.5	15
<b>Notification - Depredation-Related Take</b>				
Individuals	25	25	.5	13
Private Sector	2	2	.5	1
Government	9	9	.5	5
<b>Notification - Specimen Collection</b>				
Individuals	3	3	.5	2
Private Sector	2	2	.5	1
Government	16	16	.5	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>105</b>		<b>55</b>

\*Rounded

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

**Madonna Baucum,**

*Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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